

Council on Postsecondary Education
March 24, 2003

Conference Update

The council staff coordinates and participates in numerous conferences and other activities to promote postsecondary reform. At each council meeting, the staff will report on recent activities.

Kentucky's participation in the National Forum on College-Level Learning's student learning project promises to provide valuable results, results that will help answer Question 4 ("Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?"). Representatives of four pilot states participating in the National Forum project met in Louisville February 13 and 14. Governor Patton opened the meeting. Among the Kentucky attendees were Ron Greenberg, Tom Layzell, Sue Hodges Moore, Bob Sexton, Gary Cox, Mark Wasisko (representing postsecondary education chief academic officers), and Rick Feldhoff (representing faculty leadership). During the meeting, staff from the National Forum presented the model that will be used to assess student learning for the 2004 version of *Measuring Up*, the state-by-state national report card on postsecondary education. Participants discussed strategies for increasing support for the project within the participating states (particularly among independent institutions), working with national testing entities to gather data necessary for the project, and sustaining the project at a national level. Over the next several months, the council staff will work with institutional representatives to gather information in support of Kentucky's participation.

The Council on Postsecondary Education and Northern Kentucky University hosted the 2003 Student Advising Conference February 20 and 21. The conference was a response to recent student engagement and alumni surveys that identified academic and career advising as areas in need of institutional attention and improvement. The conference theme, "Promoting Student Success Through Advising," offered opportunities for teams from each of Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions to learn about new initiatives to provide student support and improve retention and job placement. Conference presentations addressed Question 3 ("Are more students advancing through the system?") and Question 4 ("Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?").

Dr. Wes Habley, Director of the Office of Educational Practices, American College Testing Program, provided the keynote address. He outlined the future of advising, including innovative approaches to advising an increasingly diverse student body. Dr. Catherine Buyarski, Director of the University College Advising Center, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, presented

advising strategies recognized by the National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding Institutional Program Awards in 2000 and 2001. In addition, presentations from faculty and staff at Kentucky's postsecondary institutions explored use of technology in advising, increasing campus support for advising activities, and advising non-traditional students.

Over 250 participants attended the conference. A communication network will be created to connect teams across the campuses and support improvements in advising practices. Follow-up activities will be held at the May Faculty Development Conference. Conference evaluations were extremely positive. Mr. Whitehead attended the conference.

To increase the accessibility to postsecondary education and postsecondary enrollments (Question 2, "Are more students enrolling?"), the Kentucky Virtual University held a Policy Workshop for Accessibility of Online Instruction March 6 at the University of Louisville Shelby Campus. The workshop allowed more than 60 participants from over 30 different institutions and state agencies to share resources and lessons learned and to discuss accessibility issues as they met to develop institutional ADA/Section 508 compliance policies for online instruction and to discuss policy implementation. The workshop discussions also were Web-cast live to the institutions by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. These activities, and an October 10, 2002, ADA Symposium for Online Instruction, were made possible through the support of the institutions, Norb Ryan (State ADA Coordinator, Cabinet for Workforce Development), and the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Plans are underway for the first spring seminar of the Institute for Effective Governance to be held May 19 and 20 in Lexington. All council members, governing board members, and presidents should attend. The seminar will open with a general session on president/board relationships followed by breakout sessions for individual boards. Tuesday's sessions will focus on sustaining reform in tight fiscal times.

Monday evening's reception and dinner will be held in conjunction with the annual Faculty Development Conference. Tom Layzell will be the keynote speaker at dinner.

The Faculty Development Conference also will be May 19 and 20 in Lexington. The council's conference has been linked with the KCTCS annual faculty conference. Three to five hundred faculty are expected to attend. The conference theme is "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: Engaging the Learner" and addresses Question 3 ("Are more students advancing through the system?") and Question 4 ("Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?"). Programs will help faculty meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population of students. Faculty will share innovative approaches to teaching that meet the needs of minority and nontraditional students, including students with

disabilities, adult students, and part-time students. Programs also will demonstrate creative uses of new technologies that increase all students' learning.

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